I. CHILD		C	alendar Y	ear 200	00				Calendar Y	ear 200	)1		Calendar Year 2002 <sup>A</sup>					
SAFETY PROFILE	Reports	%	Duplic. Childn.	%	Unique Childn. <sup>2</sup>	%	Reports	%	Duplic Childn. <sup>2</sup>	%	Unique Childn. <sup>2</sup>	%	Reports	%	Duplic Childn. <sup>2</sup>	%	Unique Childn. <sup>2</sup>	%
I. Total CA/N Reports Disposed <sup>1</sup>	47,881		74,412		57808		51,752		80,743		61,225		52,738		79,632		61,294	
II. Disposition of CA/N Reports <sup>3</sup>																		
Substantiated & Indicated	6,645	13.9	7,658	10.3	6910	12.0	7,258	14.0	9,237	11.4	7,886	12.0	6,575	12.5	9,404	11.8	8,345	13.6
Unsubstantiated	9,493	19.8	15,668	21.1	12991	22.5	11,354	21.9	18,577	23.0	15,201	24.8	11,569	21.9	16,237	20.4	13,325	21.7
Other	31,743	66.3	51,086	68.7	37907	65.6	33,140	64.0	52,929	65.6	38,138	62.3	34,594	65.6	53,991	67.8	39,624	64.6
III. Child Cases Opened for Services <sup>4</sup>			5,618	73.4	5012	72.5			6,887	74.6	5,771	73.2			8,726	92.8	7,702	92.3
IV. Children Entering Care Based on CA/N Report <sup>5</sup>			2,500	32.6	2190	31.7			3,174	34.4	2,562	32.5			2,693	28.6	2,442	29.3
V. Child Fatalities <sup>6</sup>					48	0.7					33	0.4					35	0.4
STATEWIDE A	AGGREGA	ATE DA	ATA USE	D TO	DETERM	INE S	UBSTAN'	ΓIAL (	CONFORM	MITY								
VI. Recurrence of Maltreatment <sup>7</sup> [Standard: 6.1% or less)					203 of 3,436	5.9					425 of 4,128	10.3					320 of 4,407	7.3
VII. Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care <sup>8</sup> (for Jan-Sept) [Standard: 0.57% or less]					90 of 17,316	0.52					105 of 17,610	0.60					114 of 17,626	0.66

#### FOOTNOTES TO DATA ELEMENTS IN CHILD SAFETY PROFILE

Each maltreatment allegation reported to NCANDS is associated with a disposition or finding that is used to derive the counts provided in this safety profile. The safety profile uses three categories. The various terms that are used in NCANDS reporting have been collapsed into these three groups.

Disposition		
Category	Safety Profile Disposition	NCANDS Disposition Codes Included
A	Substantiated or Indicated	"Substantiated," "Indicated," and "Alternative Response Disposition
	(Maltreatment Victim)	Victim"
В	Unsubstantiated	"Unsubstantiated," "Unsubstantiated, Other than Intentionally False
		Reporting "and "Unsubstantiated Due to Intentionally False Reporting"
С	Other	"Closed-No Finding," "Alternative Response Disposition – Not a Victim,"
		"Other," and "Unknown or Missing"

Alternative Response was added starting with the 2000 data year. The two categories of Unsubstantiated were added starting with the 2000 day year. In earlier years there was only the category of Unsubstantiated

- 1. The data element, "Total CA/N Reports Disposed," is based on the reports received in the State that received a disposition in the reporting period under review. The number shown may include reports received during a previous year that received a disposition in the reporting year. Counts based on "reports," "duplicated counts of children," and "unique counts of children" are provided.
- 2. The duplicated count of children (report-child pairs) counts a child each time that (s)he was reported. The unique count of children counts a child only once during the reporting period, regardless of how many times the child was reported.
- 3. For the column labeled "Reports," the data element, "Disposition of CA/N Reports," is based on upon the highest disposition of any child who was the subject of an investigation in a particular report. For example, if a report investigated two children, and one child is found to be neglected and the other child found not to be maltreated, the report disposition will be substantiated (Group A). The disposition for each child is based on the specific finding related to the maltreatment(s). In other words, of the two children above, one is a victim and is counted under "substantiated" (Group A) and the other is not a victim and is counted under "unsubstantiated" (Group B). In determining the unique counts of children, the highest finding is given priority. If a child is found to be a victim in one report (Group A), but not a victim in a second report (Group B), the unique count of children includes the child only as a victim (Group A). The category of "other" (Group C) includes children whose report may have been "closed without a finding," children for whom the allegation disposition is "unknown," and other dispositions that a State is unable to code as substantiated, indicated, alternative response victim, or unsubstantiated.
- 4. The data element, "Child Cases Opened for Services," is based on the number of victims (Group A) during the reporting period under review. "Opened for Services" refers to post-investigative services. The duplicated number counts each time a victim's report is linked to on-going services; the unique number counts a victim only once regardless of the number of times services are linked to reports of substantiated maltreatment.

- 5. The data element, "Children Entering Care Based on CA/N Report," is based on the number of victims (Group A) during the reporting period under review. The duplicated number counts each time a victim's report is linked to a foster care removal date. The unique number counts a victim only once regardless of the number of removals that may be reported.
- 6. The data element "Child Fatalities" counts the number of children reported to NCANDS as having died as a result of child abuse and/or neglect. Depending upon State practice, this number may count only those children for whom a case record has been opened either prior to or after the death, or may include a number of children whose deaths have been investigated as possibly related to child maltreatment. For example, some States include neglected-related deaths such as those caused by motor vehicle or boating accidents, house fires or access to firearms, under certain circumstances. The percentage is based on a count of unique victims of maltreatment for the reporting period. The count also includes fatalities that have been reported on the Agency File, which collects non-child welfare information system data.
- 7. The data element, "Recurrence of Maltreatment," is defined as follows: Of all children associated with a "substantiated," "indicated," or "alternative response victim" finding of maltreatment during the first six months of the reporting period, what percentage had another "substantiated," "indicated," or "alternative response victim" finding of maltreatment within a 6-month period. The number of victims during the first six-month period and the number of these victims who were recurrent victims within six months are provided. This data element is used to determine, in part, the State's substantial conformity with Safety Outcome #1.
- 8. The data element, "Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care," is defined as follows: Of all children who were served in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage were found to be victims of maltreatment. A child is counted as having been maltreated in foster care if the perpetrator of the maltreatment was identified as a foster parent or residential facility staff. Counts of children maltreated in foster care are derived from NCANDS, while counts of children placed in foster care are derived from AFCARS. The observation period for these measures is January-September because this is the reporting period jointly addressed by both NCANDS and AFCARS. For both measures, the number of children found to be maltreated in foster care and the percentage of all children in foster care are provided. This data element is used to determine, in part, the State's substantial conformity with Safety Outcome #2.

#### **Additional Footnotes**

A. The 2002 safety data are preliminary. While they should be considered a good approximation of the final numbers, it is possible that they could change slightly. If further analysis indicates that a change is needed, the Children's Bureau will create a new data profile for Missouri.

II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY	Federal l	FY 2000	Federal 1	FY 2001	Federal FY 2002		
PROFILE	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	
I. Foster Care Population Flow							
Children in foster care on first day of year	11,474		11,830		12,138		
Admissions during year	7,216		7,268		7,145		
Discharges during year	5,509		5,749		6,238		
Children in care on last day of year	13,181		13,349		13,045		
Net change during year	+1,707		+1,519		+907		
II. Placement Types for Children in Care							
Pre-Adoptive Homes	1,363	10.3	1,448	10.8	1,362	10.4	
Foster Family Homes (Relative)	3,166	24.0	2,884	21.6	2,706	20.7	
Foster Family Homes (Non-Relative)	4,895	37.1	5,043	37.8	4,249	32.6	
Group Homes	196	1.5	196	1.5	141	1.1	
Institutions	2,208	16.8	2,263	17.0	1,869	14.3	
Supervised Independent Living	204	1.5	387	2.9	443	3.4	
Runaway	201	1.5	198	1.5	133	1.0	
Trial Home Visit	715	5.4	793	5.9	1,042	8.0	
Missing Placement Information	118	0.9	1	0.0	2	0.0	
Not Applicable (Placement in subsequent year)	115	0.9	136	1.0	1,098	8.4	
III. Permanency Goals for Children in Care							
Reunification	7,096	53.8	7,587	56.8	7,610	58.3	
Live with Other Relatives	227	1.7	227	1.7	193	1.5	
Adoption	2,881	21.9	2,698	20.2	2,624	20.1	
Long Term Foster Care	403	3.1	377	2.8	363	2.8	
Emancipation	1,155	8.8	1,162	8.7	1,179	9.0	
Guardianship	997	7.6	865	6.5	696	5.3	
Case Plan Goal Not Established	420	3.2	430	3.2	378	2.9	
Missing Goal Information	2	0.0	3	0.0	2	0.0	

II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY	Federal l	FY 2000	Federal 1	FY 2001	Federal FY 2002		
PROFILE (continued)	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	
IV. Number of Placement Settings in Current							
Episode							
One	3,492	26.5	3,463	25.9	3,365	25.8	
Two	3,514	26.7	3,433	25.7	3,165	24.3	
Three	2,058	15.6	2,115	15.8	2,046	15.7	
Four	1,202	9.1	1,253	9.4	1,227	9.4	
Five	825	6.3	811	6.1	823	6.3	
Six or more	2,090	15.9	2,274	17.0	2,419	18.5	
Missing placement settings	0	0	0	0	0	0	
V. Number of Removal Episodes							
One	9,561	72.5	9,683	72.5	9,532	73.1	
Two	2,661	20.2	2,670	20.0	2,570	19.7	
Three	672	5.1	710	5.3	695	5.3	
Four	196	1.5	193	1.4	177	1.4	
Five	66	0.5	68	0.5	48	0.4	
Six or more	25	0.2	25	0.2	23	0.2	
Missing removal episodes	0	0	0	0	0	0	
VI. Number of children in care 17 of the							
most recent 22 months <sup>2</sup> (percent based on cases	3,197	43.2	3,185	40.8	3,227	42.9	
with sufficient information for computation)							
	Number o	f Months	Number o	f Months	<b>Number of Months</b>		
VII. Median Length of Stay in Foster Care (of children in care on last day of FY)	17	.0	15	.9	15.9		

II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY	Federal 1	FY 2000	Federal	FY 2001	Federal	FY 2002
PROFILE (continued)	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge
VIII. Length of Time to Achieve Perm. Goal	J	J	J	Ö	J	
Reunification	3,334	5.8	3,391	7.0	3,592	7.7
Adoption	1,076	35.9	1,092	32.4	1,337	31.5
Guardianship	276	19.8	398	19.4	493	17.8
Other	788	20.7	834	21.4	769	25.6
Missing Discharge Reason	0	0	1	17.7	2	0.0
Missing Date of Latest Removal or Date Error <sup>3</sup>	35	NA	33	NA	45	NA
Statewide Aggregate Data Used in	# of	% of	# of	% of	# of	% of
<b>Determining Substantial Conformity</b>	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children
IX. Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal for home? (4.1) [Standard: 76.2% or more]  X. Of all children who exited care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest	2,290	68.0	2,244	65.6 29.3	2,374	31.5
removal from home? (5.1) [Standard: 32.0% or more]  XI. Of all children served who have been in	200	21.0	320	27.0	123	31.0
foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, what percentage have had no more than two placement settings? (6.1) [Standard: 86.7% or more]	6,342	79.1	6,304	76.9	6,169	76.0
<b>XII.</b> Of all children who entered care during the year, what percentage re-entered foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode? (4.2) [Standard: 8.6% or less]	633	8.8 (78% new entry)	630	8.7 (79% new entry)	658	9.2 (78% new entry)

III. PERMANENCY PROFILE FIRST-TIME ENTRY COHORT GROUP	Federal	FY 2000	Federal	FY 2001	Federal FY 2002		
TIMST-TIME ENTRY COHORT GROCI	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	
I. Number of children entering care for the first time in cohort group ( $\% = 1^{st}$ time entry of all entering within first 6 months)	2,722	78.8	2,800	79.3	2,718	78.2	
II. Most Recent Placement Types							
Pre-Adoptive Homes	86	3.2	99	3.5	117	4.3	
Foster Family Homes (Relative)	681	25.0	620	22.1	646	23.8	
Foster Family Homes (Non-Relative)	1,097	40.3	1,163	41.5	971	35.7	
Group Homes	43	1.6	54	1.9	36	1.3	
Institutions	396	14.5	342	12.2	279	10.3	
Supervised Independent Living	4	0.1	7	0.3	11	.4	
Runaway	26	1.0	30	1.1	19	.7	
Trial Home Visit	381	14.0	474	16.9	516	19.0	
Missing Placement Information	4	0.1	1	0.0	0	0	
Not Applicable (Placement in subsequent yr)	4	0.1	10	0.4	123	4.5	
III. Most Recent Permanency Goal							
Reunification	2,264	83.2	2,410	86.1	2,344	86.2	
Live with Other Relatives	44	1.6	35	1.3	29	1.1	
Adoption	115	4.2	105	3.8	129	4.7	
Long-Term Foster Care	10	0.4	6	0.2	10	.4	
Emancipation	35	1.3	29	1.0	40	1.5	
Guardianship	96	3.5	70	2.5	38	1.4	
Case Plan Goal Not Established	151	5.5	140	5.0	127	4.7	
Missing Goal Information	7	0.3	5	0.2	1	0.0	

III. PERMANENCY PROFILE FIRST-TIME ENTRY COHORT GROUP	Federal	FY 2000	Federal	FY 2001	Federal FY 2002		
(Continued)	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	
IV. Number of Placement Settings in							
Current Episode							
One	1,175	43.2	1,130	40.4	1,092	40.2	
Two	862	31.7	874	31.2	777	28.6	
Three	379	13.9	451	16.1	447	16.4	
Four	154	5.7	158	5.6	182	6.7	
Five	75	2.8	96	3.4	115	4.2	
Six or more	77	2.8	91	3.3	105	3.9	
Missing placement settings	0	0	0	0	0	0	
V. Reason for Discharge							
Reunification/Relative Placement	829	85.8	822	84.5	869	86.8	
Adoption	15	1.6	20	2.1	27	2.7	
Guardianship	24	2.5	35	3.6	39	3.9	
Other	98	10.1	96	9.9	66	6.6	
Unknown (missing discharge reason or N/A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Number of Months		Number (	of Months	Number of Months		
VI. Median Length of Stay in Foster Care	15.9 <sup>4</sup>		15.9 <sup>5</sup>		16.0 <sup>6</sup>		

#### FOOTNOTES TO DATA ELEMENTS IN THE PERMANENCY PROFILE

<sup>1</sup>The FY00, FY01, and FY 02 counts of children in care at the start of the year exclude 147, 159, and 173 children, respectively. They were excluded to avoid counting them twice. That is, although they were actually in care on the first day, they also qualify as new entries because they left and re-entered again at some point during the same reporting period. To avoid counting them as both "in care on the first day" and "entries," the Children's Bureau selects only the most recent record. That means they get counted as "entries," not "in care on the first day."

<sup>2</sup>We designated the indicator, 17 of the most recent 22 months, rather than the statutory time frame for initiating termination of parental rights proceedings at 15 of the most 22 months, since the AFCARS system cannot determine the date the child is considered to have entered foster care as defined in the regulation. We used the outside date for determining the date the child is considered to have entered foster care, which is 60 days from the actual removal date.

 $^{3}$ Dates necessary for calculation of length of time in care in these records are chronologically incorrect. N/A = Not Applicable

<sup>6</sup> This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 16.0 months for FY02. This 16 children who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). If these children were excluded, the median length of stay would be 17.4 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 15.9 months in FY00. This includes 11 children who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). If these children were excluded, the median length of stay would be slightly higher at 16.1 months. These children are not really appropriate for inclusion in the data submission because they do not meet the AFCARS definition of being in care for 24 hours or more, so the Children's Bureau calculates the length of stay both with and without these children.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 15.9 months for FY01. This includes 17 children who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). If these children were excluded, the median length of stay would slightly higher, at 16.0 months.

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SAFETY PROFILE	Reports	%	Duplic. Childn.	%	Unique Childn. <sup>2</sup>	%	Reports	%	Duplic Childn. <sup>2</sup>	%	Unique Childn. <sup>2</sup>	%	Reports	%	Duplic Childn. <sup>2</sup>	%	Unique Childn. <sup>2</sup>	%
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Other	31,743	66.3	51,086	68.7	37907	65.6	33,140	64.0	52,929	65.6	38,138	62.3	34,594	65.6	53,991	67.8	39,624	64.6
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**Additional Footnotes** 

(none)

II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY	Federal l	FY 2000	Federal 1	FY 2001	Federal	FY 2002
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II. Placement Types for Children in Care						
Pre-Adoptive Homes	1,363	10.3	1,448	10.8	1,002	7.7
Foster Family Homes (Relative)	3,166	24.0	2,884	21.6	2,024	15.5
Foster Family Homes (Non-Relative)	4,895	37.1	5,043	37.8	2,531	19.4
Group Homes	196	1.5	196	1.5	84	.6
Institutions	2,208	16.8	2,263	17.0	982	7.5
Supervised Independent Living	204	1.5	387	2.9	294	2.3
Runaway	201	1.5	198	1.5	81	.6
Trial Home Visit	715	5.4	793	5.9	864	6.6
Missing Placement Information	118	0.9	1	0.0	0	0
Not Applicable (Placement in subsequent year)	115	0.9	136	1.0	5,190	39.8
III. Permanency Goals for Children in Care						
Reunification	7,096	53.8	7,587	56.8	7,782	59.6
Live with Other Relatives	227	1.7	227	1.7	193	1.5
Adoption	2,881	21.9	2,698	20.2	2,540	19.5
Long Term Foster Care	403	3.1	377	2.8	380	2.9
Emancipation	1,155	8.8	1,162	8.7	1,121	8.6
Guardianship	997	7.6	865	6.5	636	4.9
Case Plan Goal Not Established	420	3.2	430	3.2	398	3.0
Missing Goal Information	2	0.0	3	0.0	2	0.0

II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY	Federal l	FY 2000	Federal 1	FY 2001	Federal FY 2002		
PROFILE (continued)	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	
IV. Number of Placement Settings in Current							
Episode							
One	3,492	26.5	3,463	25.9	4,053	31.1	
Two	3,514	26.7	3,433	25.7	2,875	22.0	
Three	2,058	15.6	2,115	15.8	1,836	14.1	
Four	1,202	9.1	1,253	9.4	1,153	8.8	
Five	825	6.3	811	6.1	760	5.8	
Six or more	2,090	15.9	2,274	17.0	2,375	18.2	
Missing placement settings	0	0	0	0	0	0	
V. Number of Removal Episodes							
One	9,561	72.5	9,683	72.5	9,541	73.1	
Two	2,661	20.2	2,670	20.0	2,414	18.5	
Three	672	5.1	710	5.3	673	5.2	
Four	196	1.5	193	1.4	194	1.5	
Five	66	0.5	68	0.5	64	0.5	
Six or more	25	0.2	25	0.2	36	0.3	
Missing removal episodes	0	0	0	0	130	1.0	
VI. Number of children in care 17 of the							
most recent 22 months <sup>2</sup> (percent based on cases	3,197	43.2	3,185	40.8	3,289	43.5	
with sufficient information for computation)							
	Number o	f Months	Number o	of Months	Number o	of Months	
VII. Median Length of Stay in Foster Care (of children in care on last day of FY)	17	17.0		.9	15.8		

II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY	Federal l	FY 2000	Federal	FY 2001	Federal FY 2002		
PROFILE (continued)	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	
VIII. Length of Time to Achieve Perm. Goal	Ğ	g	Ğ	, and the second	Ğ	9	
Reunification	3,334	5.8	3,391	7.0	3,943	7.5	
Adoption	1,076	35.9	1,092	32.4	1,513	32.4	
Guardianship	276	19.8	398	19.4	968	18.4	
Other	788	20.7	834	21.4	506	39.0	
Missing Discharge Reason	0	0	1	17.7	2	0.0	
Missing Date of Latest Removal or Date Error <sup>3</sup>	35	NA	33	NA	64	NA	
Statewide Aggregate Data Used in	# of	% of	# of	% of	# of	% of	
<b>Determining Substantial Conformity</b>	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children	
IX. Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal for home? (4.1) [Standard: 76.2% or more]  X. Of all children who exited care to a finalized	2,290	68.0	2,244	65.6	2,630	65.9	
adoption, what percentage exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home? (5.1) [Standard: 32.0% or more]	265	24.6	320	29.3	462	30.3	
XI. Of all children served who have been in foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, what percentage have had no more than two placement settings?  (6.1) [Standard: 86.7% or more]	6,342	79.1	6,304	76.9	6,639	78.7	
<b>XII.</b> Of all children who entered care during the year, what percentage re-entered foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode? (4.2) [Standard: 8.6% or less]	633	8.8 (78% new entry)	630	8.7 (79% new entry)	628	8.5 (75% new entry)	

III. PERMANENCY PROFILE FIRST-TIME ENTRY COHORT GROUP	Federal FY 2000		Federal FY 2001		Federal FY 2002	
	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
I. Number of children entering care for the						
<b>first time in cohort group</b> (% = $1^{st}$ time entry	2,722	78.8	2,800	79.3	2,729	76.5
of all entering within first 6 months)						
II. Most Recent Placement Types						
Pre-Adoptive Homes	86	3.2	99	3.5	128	4.7
Foster Family Homes (Relative)	681	25.0	620	22.1	515	18.9
Foster Family Homes (Non-Relative)	1,097	40.3	1,163	41.5	689	25.2
Group Homes	43	1.6	54	1.9	28	1.0
Institutions	396	14.5	342	12.2	200	7.3
Supervised Independent Living	4	0.1	7	0.3	7	0.3
Runaway	26	1.0	30	1.1	14	0.5
Trial Home Visit	381	14.0	474	16.9	470	17.2
Missing Placement Information	4	0.1	1	0.0	0	0
Not Applicable (Placement in subsequent yr)	4	0.1	10	0.4	678	24.8
III. Most Recent Permanency Goal						
Reunification	2,264	83.2	2,410	86.1	2,361	86.5
Live with Other Relatives	44	1.6	35	1.3	21	0.8
Adoption	115	4.2	105	3.8	132	4.8
Long-Term Foster Care	10	0.4	6	0.2	12	0.4
Emancipation	35	1.3	29	1.0	41	1.5
Guardianship	96	3.5	70	2.5	37	1.4
Case Plan Goal Not Established	151	5.5	140	5.0	124	4.5
Missing Goal Information	7	0.3	5	0.2	1	0.0

III. PERMANENCY PROFILE FIRST-TIME ENTRY COHORT GROUP	Federal FY 2000		Federal FY 2001		Federal FY 2002	
(Continued)	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
IV. Number of Placement Settings in						
Current Episode						
One	1,175	43.2	1,130	40.4	1,221	44.7
Two	862	31.7	874	31.2	755	27.7
Three	379	13.9	451	16.1	388	14.2
Four	154	5.7	158	5.6	172	6.3
Five	75	2.8	96	3.4	101	3.7
Six or more	77	2.8	91	3.3	92	3.4
Missing placement settings	0	0	0	0	0	0
V. Reason for Discharge						
Reunification/Relative Placement	829	85.8	822	84.5	886	88.4
Adoption	15	1.6	20	2.1	22	2.2
Guardianship	24	2.5	35	3.6	69	6.9
Other	98	10.1	96	9.9	25	2.5
Unknown (missing discharge reason or N/A)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Number of Months		Number of Months		Number of Months	
VI. Median Length of Stay in Foster Care	15.9 <sup>4</sup>		15.9 <sup>5</sup>		15.6 <sup>6</sup>	

#### FOOTNOTES TO DATA ELEMENTS IN THE PERMANENCY PROFILE

<sup>1</sup>The FY00, FY01, and FY 02 counts of children in care at the start of the year exclude 147, 159, and 214 children, respectively. They were excluded to avoid counting them twice. That is, although they were actually in care on the first day, they also qualify as new entries because they left and re-entered again at some point during the same reporting period. To avoid counting them as both "in care on the first day" and "entries," the Children's Bureau selects only the most recent record. That means they get counted as "entries," not "in care on the first day."

<sup>2</sup>We designated the indicator, 17 of the most recent 22 months, rather than the statutory time frame for initiating termination of parental rights proceedings at 15 of the most 22 months, since the AFCARS system cannot determine the date the child is considered to have entered foster care as defined in the regulation. We used the outside date for determining the date the child is considered to have entered foster care, which is 60 days from the actual removal date.

 $^{3}$ Dates necessary for calculation of length of time in care in these records are chronologically incorrect. N/A = Not Applicable

<sup>6</sup> This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 15.6 months for FY02. This included 19 children who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). If these children were excluded, the median length of stay would be 16.6 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 15.9 months in FY00. This includes 11 children who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). If these children were excluded, the median length of stay would be slightly higher at 16.1 months. These children are not really appropriate for inclusion in the data submission because they do not meet the AFCARS definition of being in care for 24 hours or more, so the Children's Bureau calculates the length of stay both with and without these children.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 15.9 months for FY01. This includes 17 children who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). If these children were excluded, the median length of stay would be slightly higher, at 16.0 months.